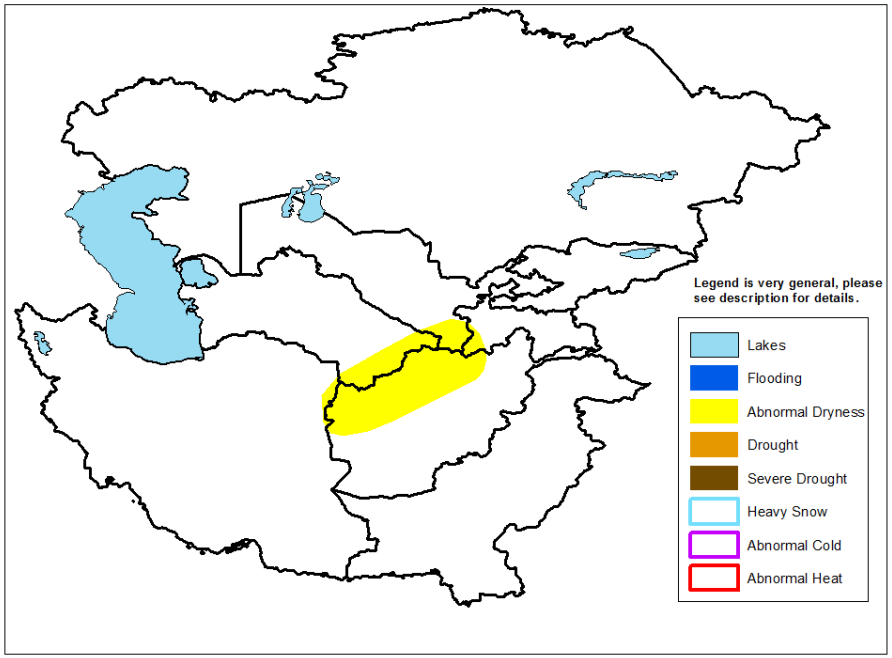
Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
March 6 – March 12, 2014

Temperatures:

Temperatures have remained below-average across Central Asia during the past three dekads. During the third dekad of February, negative temperature anomalies ranged between 1-4 degrees C across much of Central Asia. The largest negative temperature departures (4-8 degrees C) were across central Kazakhstan. During the next week, below-average temperatures are again expected across most of the region. The largest negative temperature anomalies (1-5 degrees C) are forecast for Kazakhstan, while average to above-average temperatures (1-3 degrees C) are expected in southern Central Asia. Minimum temperatures are forecast to fall below -20 degrees C across much of Kazakhstan and the highest elevations of Afghanistan and Tajikistan.



Precipitation

Dry weather continued to prevail across Central Asia during the end of February and the beginning of March. According to both satellite and gauge-based rainfall estimates, weekly precipitation anomalies ranged from 10-30mm below-average across already drier-than-average locations in northern Afghanistan, Tajikistan, western Kyrgyzstan and local parts of southern Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. During the past 90 days, the area highlighted in abnormal dryness has observed rainfall deficits from 10 to 50mm. During the next week, an increase in precipitation is expected across southern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, northern Afghanistan and southern Uzbekistan which should help reduce long-term precipitation deficits.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.